

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN L-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 011527

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, CI

SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF FREI LETTER

OPIC HAS ASKED US TO DECLASSIFY FORMER PRESIDENT FREI'S LETTER OF MAY 4, 1969 TO PRESIDENT NIXON CONCERNING THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE COPPER INDUSTRY IN CHILE SO THAT IT CAN BE USED IN THE OPIC-ANACONDA ARBITRATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LETTER CAN PROPERLY BE DECLASSIFIED AND HAVE ASKED THE NSC FOR THEIR CONCURRENCE. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE TAKE FINAL ACTION WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT FREI SHOULD BE CONSULTED. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT MR. FREI INFORMALLY, INDICATE TO HIM THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING DECLASSIFICATION OF THIS LETTER, AND FIND OUT WHETHER HE HAS ANY OBJECTIONS. TEXT OF LETTER GIVEN BELOW.

QUOTE I HAVE INFORMED AMBASSADOR KORRY OF THE MEASURES CONCERNING COPPER THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WILL ADOPT.

AT THIS MOMENT I AM PREPARING FOR PRESENTATION TO MY COUNTRY A VERY COMPLETE PROGRAM WHICH WILL SIGNIFY SACRIFICES BY ALL SECTORS IN ORDER TO DEAL EFFICIENTLY

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WITH CONTROL OF THE INFLATIONARY PROCESS WHICH CONCERNS

ME GRAVELY AND ABOVE ALL WITH MEASURES DESIGNED TO RESOLVE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DROUGHT WHICH AFFECTED US ALL LAST YEAR AND WHICH HAS CONSTITUTED A CATASTROPHE FOR THIS

NATION, HAVING AFFECTED A ZONE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND KILOMETERS LONG WHICH INCLUDES THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL PROVINCES OF THIS COUNTRY, AND THE REDUCTION OF WATER WHICH HAS SIGNIFIED A SEVERE RATIONING OF ELECTRICITY FOR THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

TO PRESENT THIS PLAN AND TO EXCLUDE FROM THESE SACRIFICES THE COPPER PRODUCING COMPANIES IS POLITICALLY AND MORALLY IMPOSSIBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CONDITIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET HAVE CHANGED FUNDAMENTALLY AND HAVE PRODUCED DE FACTO SITUATIONS WHICH IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO MODIFY.

IN ADOPTING THESE MEASURES IN REGARD TO COPPER I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR SOME FACTS WHICH TO ME SEEM ESSENTIAL:

1. DURING MY ENTIRE ADMINISTRATION I HAVE DESIRED TO MAINTAIN THE BEST RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS MY DESIRE AND MY DECISION THAT THESE GOOD RELATIONS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED FOREVER AND ACCENTUATED BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS FUNDAMENTAL;

2. IN ADOPTING THESE MEASURES I AM NOT MOTIVATED BY ANY POLITICAL INTEREST. I TAKE THEM BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL MORAL OBLIGATION AND BECAUSE THESE EXISTING OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS MORE THAN JUSTIFY ACTION ON THE PART OF MY GOVERNMENT.

SURELY YOU WILL THINK THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM CONCERNING WHICH INTERVENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS NOT APPROPRIATE GIVEN THAT IT CONCERNS RELATIONS BETWEEN MY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANIES. THIS IS SO, BUT IT HAS APPEARED CONVENIENT TO ME THAT YOU KNOW THE REASONS WHY I SHOULD PROCEED AND THE THINKING WHICH MOVES ME AND THE OBJECTIVES WHICH I PURSUE.

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I HAVE HAD GIVEN TO THE AMBASSADOR ALL THE FIGURES AND ANTECEDENTS IN ORDER THAT HE CAN INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT IN A MOST COMPLETE AND DETAILED MANNER. MAY I REITERATE TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MY SENTIMENTS OF MY I REITERATE TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MY SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND GREAT ESTEEM. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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